

**REPORT TO THE  
TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**2002**

**ON THE STATUS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND  
AS ESTABLISHED BY ACT 169, SLH, 1994**

**PREPARED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE OF HAWAII  
November 2001**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2001**

This report is to provide a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the formerly known "Environmental Health Program Enhancement and Education Fund." This report is submitted in compliance with Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes. This section states that the Department "shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the environmental health education fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures..."

The mission of the EHSD branches is core public health functions of assurance and assessment. The EHSD programs are regulatory in nature, with authority and responsibilities that preclude its delegation to the private sector. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices or vectors.

The programs in EHSD can be found in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and Noise, Radiation and Indoor Air Quality. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; assessing charges of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and abating vectors in public areas.

Budget restrictions and corresponding staff reductions continue taking their toll on much of the Division's already reduced resources. As this trend continues, staff training remains a significant focus for maximizing efficiency and effectiveness with limited staffing in order to satisfy performance of program objectives. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for the updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes that continue to remain during government's redefinition and restructuring activities.

The current practice of utilization of an educational approach to motivate public and operators toward compliance with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. In this regard, it is recognized that compliance with rules and regulations, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes continuing education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program's regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous, especially in areas where scientific finding continuously occur. An informed public with a clear understanding of the public health rationale of program functions and corresponding regulatory requirements perform a fundamental role in

the monitoring of potential environmental health problems, assuring that problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

#### STATUS OF THE EHEF

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

Revenues collected for fiscal year 2001, and deposited into the fund totaled \$521,653.36. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

Expenditures of \$170,343.16 are for personnel costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's (located on the Big Island and Oahu, respectively), and one Data Processing System Analyst IV. The recently created Data Processing System Analyst IV position provides the Division with a technical person for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters. The Registered Sanitarian IV position when filled will be to coordinate and streamline building plan reviews required by environmental health programs. The two Registered Sanitarians provide public outreach and education for the Neighbor Islands, as well as to most food establishments in Honolulu and its suburbs under the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. For fiscal year 2001, this program provided the following:

#### FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION PROGRAM

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	317
Student Attendance:	7,937
Students Certified:	6,995
Food Safety Classes Given:	1,622
Student Attendance:	31,102

The EHEF also enables the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division the means of providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2001:

- (a) The Sanitation Program Manager attended the Food & Drug Administration Pacific Regional Retail Food Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 28 – September 9, 2000.

- (b) Travel for a personnel from the State Laboratories was funded to attend the “Rapid Methods & Automation in Microbiology” in Manhattan, Kansas, July 6 – 14, 2000. The significance of this training was to obtain knowledge on rapid testing methods for the purpose of determining the cause of food poisoning. Funds were also provided for a Laboratory personnel to attend the American Society for Microbiology General Meeting in Orlando, Florida, May 19 -25, 2001.
- (c) A Food and Drug Branch staff person attended the Association of Food And Drug Officials (AFDO) Annual Education Conference at Atlanta, Georgia on June 13-21, 2001. The AFDO International Workshop was dedicated to discussions about the ever-changing global trade environment with its myriad of political and technological problems.
- (d) A Registered Sanitarian whose responsibilities are key to regulating the milk industry in Hawaii attended the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shippers course on May 5 - 11, 2000 at Kansas. This course explored a shift from the traditional command-control method of regulation to a HACCP based method that utilizes good science for regulating the interstate milk industry. In addition, two Sanitaricians participated in the mandatory Pacific Regional Milk Certification course in Reno, Nevada, November 13 – 17, 2000.
- (e) A Registered Sanitarian from the Kauai Environmental Health office attended the Annual NSF Conference on Food Safety in Savannah, Georgia, October 11- 14, 2000.
- (f) A Food & Drug Inspector attended the Basic Shellfish Plant Sanitation & Shellfish State Standardization Officer Training Course in Biloxi, Mississippi on January 28 – February 10, 2001.
- (g) A Registered Sanitarian from the Hawaii Environmental Health office attended the Cheesemaking Course in Pullman, Washington, March 3 – 5, 2001. This course was significant in providing knowledge on cheesemaking and safe food handling practices.
- (h) Various workshops were provided for Food & Drug and Sanitation Staff in the area of food safety
- (i) Meetings, coordinated by the Sanitation Branch in conjunction with the City and County of Honolulu and various water experts related to the court-mandated rule making process for salt-water pools continued during this fiscal year. Efforts were directed at finalizing the rules for adoption

- (j) Finally, a significant investment was expended for further computer infrastructure upgrades for the Division's automated system, as well as providing much needed computers for individual programs.

Total expenditures and encumbrances for fiscal year 2001 were \$365,794.00 (includes personnel costs). A total of \$381,645.17 was transferred to the general fund on June 30, 2000 as required under Section 321-27(c), HRS.

In summary, it would not have been possible to fund many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities and technology infrastructure advancements without the Environmental Health Education Fund. Proposed expenditures for FY 2002 will continue the vision for prudent utilization of this special fund to ensure protection of public health needs at a time when much of government service is restructuring and re-inventing itself from its former heavy enforcement orientation to partnership building.